



## In today's Victory Times

**Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006**

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Today is January 26, 2006. It is the 26th day of the year. There are 339 days left until 2007.

# Soldiers help children with donations

Story By Sgt. Joe M.

**Battle**

MNC-I PAO

Capt. Andy Slater, trial counsel, 43rd Military Police Brigade, helps children of detainees by passing out school supplies, toys and various other items donated by people from the United States.

"The unrest and turmoil in this country is affecting the children," he said.

"I am trying, in the most tangible way I can, to bring some comfort and joy to the children caught in the middle of Iraq's turmoil."

Slater, a judge advocate for the Maine Army National Guard, also has a private legal practice in Ellsworth, Maine where he mainly works on cases as a children's advocate.

"In some cases, I speak on behalf of children who cannot speak for themselves."

"When the 43rd MP Brigade arrived in Iraq, our mission was detainee operations," said Slater.

"We were responsible for



photo courtesy of Capt. Andy Slater

**Capt. Andy Slater, trial counsel, 43rd Military Police Brigade, passes children toys during a visitation day at a Baghdad detention center.**

all the detention facilities in this theater."

"Because of my job, I went to Abu Ghraib often and, on visitation days I noticed that the children there were in need of basic necessities such as school supplies," said Slater.

"After speaking to Cyndi Swazey, a paralegal from my practice, she suggested that we do something good for the children," he said.

Working with Swazey and

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jeffery Jencks, chaplain, 43rd MP brigade, Slater began collecting donations of school supplies such as pens, paper and crayons to pass out to the children at the detainee camps.

"My focus is very simple," said Slater.

"Look into the eyes of the children, see the world as they see it and try to make it better from the child's perspective."

## Multinational Division-Baghdad Soldiers find IEDs

### Multi-National Division - Baghdad PAO

Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers discovered two improvised explosive devices south of Baghdad Saturday night.

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 67th Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, discovered an IED and secured the site.

An Explosive Ordinance Disposal team, disabled the roadside bomb, which consisted of two 155mm rounds.

Later, Soldiers with 1st Bn., 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division., located another roadside bomb.

An EOD team disposed of the IED, which consisted of two 120 mm rounds.

# Task Force Cobra ready for first mission

**Story and photo by**  
**Pfc. Jason Dangel**  
4th BCT PAO, 4ID

After a successful transition with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, the 4th Infantry Division's Cobra Brigade is ready for its first mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 4th Brigade Combat Team took command of central and southern Baghdad as Col. Michael Beech, 4th BCT, commander, and Command Sergeant Major John Moody, Jr., unfurled the brigade colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Prosperity January 14. The ceremony marked the start of Task Force Cobra's

first deployment since its activation Dec. 16, 2004.

"This unit was formed After a year of preparing for



Col. Michael Beech, commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division(left), and Col. Edward Cardon, commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, share a moment after a Transfer of Authority ceremony Saturday at FOB Prosperity.

specifically for this mission a year ago," explained Beech, a native of Worcester, Mass.

"We spent the last 12 months prior to this deploy-

ment focused on coming to Iraq to do this mission.

After a year of preparing for

this operation and building this brigade, it is a phenomenal thing to see it all come together here in Iraq."

As the battalions of Task Force Cobra execute their

missions, their primary focuses will be: securing a key infrastructure of Iraq's new government, the International Zone, partnering and developing Iraqi Security Forces and helping the ISF defeat Anti-Iraqi Forces.

"During the short time the U.S. Army has been here, we've seen great strides in the Iraqi Security Forces' ability to defeat the Anti-Iraqi Forces and secure the population," Beech said. "During our time here, their ability will increase."

Over the last few days, he said, the Soldiers on the ground have been extraordinarily successful identifying a variety of threats.

see **COBRA**, page 3

## DRIVE SAFELY !!

This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.

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**Al Faw Palace Ballroom, Feb 3, 2006, 6 -  
9 P.M.**

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Col. Joseph B. Coleman**  
**Multinational Corps-**  
**Iraq Inspector General**

*RSVP Colonel/Command  
Sergeant major and above  
No later than Jan 28, 2006  
Sgt. 1st Class Balduf, MNC-I  
HR/EO Advisor  
822-3545/3532 or  
christopher.balduf@iraq.cent  
com.mil*



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## COBRA

"Every day," said Beech, "there are dozens of examples where our Soldiers and leaders on the ground are making a huge difference, getting this country closer to a self-sustaining, independent democracy.

Created as a unit of action under the U.S. Army's force restructuring, the 4th BCT, 4th Inf. Div., manned, equipped and trained nearly 4,000

Soldiers in less than one year and began deploying personnel to Camp Buehring, Kuwait late November.

Each Cobra Soldier completed additional training focused on improvised-explosive devices, cultural awareness, conducting preventive maintenance checks and perform pre-combat inspections before leaving.

After fine tuning their weapons and combat knowledge, the Cobra Brigade began its trek into Baghdad, arriving just in time for the holiday season where many Soldiers celebrated Christmas and the New Year at their assigned forward operating bases.

Shortly after the holiday festivities

subsided, leaders from the 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., the "Vanguard Brigade" from Fort Stewart, Ga., helped their replacements take the lead in daily operations as a final transition between the two brigades.

"I feel that our transition with the 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. was absolutely superb," Beech said.

"It really served as the capstone event and put the finishing touches on this brigade as we ready ourselves for this mission."

As the Vanguard Brigade returns to its home station, Task Force Cobra has assumed responsibility of building upon its accomplishments in Iraq.

"The 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. had a very successful rotation," said Moody, a native of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"Many Soldiers from their units lost their lives while they were here." "They gave their lives for a great cause, and we intend to build upon all the success they achieved."

"The Cobra Brigade will play a critical role in the success of the new Iraqi government as the people of Iraq work to make history", he concluded.

## Stars and stripes to offer free Valentine's messages

Stars and Stripes will host a free Valentine's Day message posting service online beginning January 9. The greetings, which can include an image, will be published in the European, Pacific and Middle East editions of Stars and Stripes on February 14. "Stars and Stripes provides a free and easy means for exchanging messages between servicemembers and their loved ones," said Chief Operating Officer Max Lederer, Jr. "Our message services have become so popular that now we regularly get e-mails asking us for the dates way in advance of the occasion," he added.

To send a free message, go to [Stripes.com](http://Stripes.com) and click on the Valentine's Day Messages link, any time from January 9 until 30.

Messages must be written in English, received online and by the deadline. Every effort will be made to print all the messages, but Stars and Stripes also reserves the right to limit the number of messages actually published based on the space available.

# Dogs become new tool in search for IEDs

**Story by**  
**Sgt. Ann Drier**  
363rd MPAD

Staff Sgt. Archie, 67th Engineering Detachment, greets everyone with warmth and friendliness. His tail wags and his tongue lolls from his mouth as he places both huge paws on his visitor's chest and gives them a dead-on look in the eyes.

Staff Sgt. Figo greets her visitors with a serious stare, more aloof than her counterpart, but still friendly.

She'll gladly accept a pat on the head for a moment or two before turning to more important business.

The 67th Engineering Detachment adopted the program, begun by the British army, of using dogs to find explosives and contraband almost three years ago. Most of the dogs are found in pounds or donated to the program. They undergo a training period of about three months before being placed with a handler. "I went to train under Roger Tredwell, who's been

doing this kind of thing for 30 years," said Sgt. Daniel Broda, of 67th Engineering Detachment, the handler for Staff Sgt. Figo. "I didn't see my dog for quite a while. He can judge in one week which dog to team up with each handler. He makes the choice based on personality and temperament of both the dog and the handler. Most of the time it works out."

"Figo is a Lab and Springer spaniel mix, so she's a bit high strung. She's very independent," said Broda.

"It took quite a while before we were able to bond. I didn't think it was going to work out because she wouldn't listen. Then one day it just clicked. Now we're inseparable. She goes with me everywhere."

The pair has been together for almost two years now, sharing the same sleeping space and daily routine. "It feels weird when she's not with me, like not having my weapon

see **DOGS**, page 5

# FSB recovery team on call to help

**Story and photo by  
Spec. George Welcome**

2nd BCT, 101st Div. PAO

When a vehicle breaks down outside the wire due to mechanical problems or battle damage, Soldiers can take comfort in knowing that their vehicles, and their comrades, will soon be retrieved.

The recovery team of Company B, 526th Forward Support Battalion, knows Soldiers are counting on them to respond quickly to their calls for help. In fact, the recovery team is ready to roll in as little as fifteen minutes after receiving a downed-vehicle call.

"The overall recovery mission is to retrieve immobilized and damaged vehicles in the Strike Brigade area of operations," said Warrant Officer Byron Wheatley, the allied trades technician for the service recovery section. We return the vehicles to a repair facility so they can be made operational as quickly as possible."

With M984 HEMMT wreckers and M88 Tracked Recovery Vehicles, the team manages to successfully retrieve all vehicles that are unable to make it back to camp under their own power.

The Soldiers of Company B's recovery team are in "on call" status Mondays through Wednesdays, meaning whenever a vehicle needs to be picked up, no matter the time, they are the first responders.

"When we are on call, we have a 15 minute recall standard," said Capt. Ethan Mills, commander of Company B. "All we need to receive is a six-line recovery report that includes what personnel are with the vehicle, what equipment is out there, what kind of package we need to put together, how the vehicle is damaged, the location of the vehicle and security of the area."

Time is a critical component of the mission of the recovery team. The longer a vehicle remains downed, the longer the Soldiers securing it remain exposed to the enemy.

"Fast recovery missions from the time we SP to the time we have recovered the vehicle is about 30 minutes," said Mills. "On average, it takes about an hour for battalion to gather its data and prepare proper data for us to launch." The recovery team has been very fortunate during their missions. Only once have they had any sort of contact with the enemy.

"We only had one incident, where they were mortared while recovering a HETT a couple of months ago. Other than that, we haven't had any major pitfalls," said Mills.

"We've been very lucky," said Wheatley, regarding the team's contact with the enemy while extracting vehicles. "We have had 34 recovery missions - one incident with no injuries and no damage to equipment. Our gun truck platoon and the infantry are very good at securing the recovery area for us," he added.

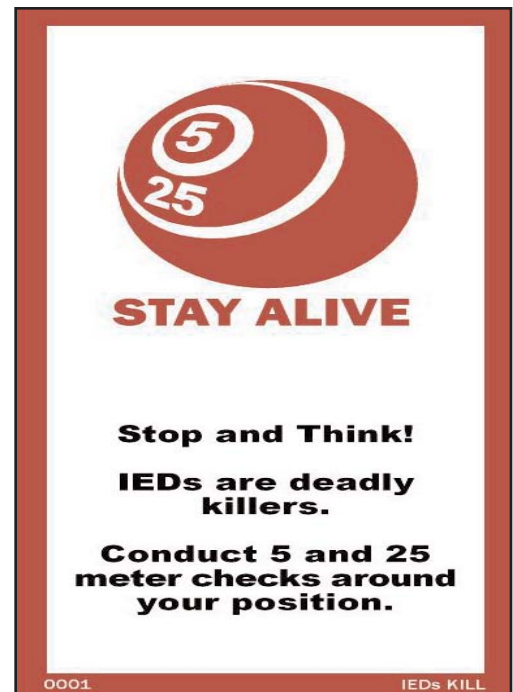
To the recovery team Soldiers, there is no such thing as an "unrecoverable" vehicle. They will conduct extraction missions for even the most severely damaged vehicles.

"There are no vehicles that we won't recover," Mills said. "Every piece of equipment that gets damaged out there is the responsibility of that unit to turn it in to higher. It helps the unit with accountability with sensitive items and primarily it helps the unit get back the piece of equipment they lost."

"We'll go get anything, no matter what the condition," said Wheatley. "We have the assets available to recover any type of vehicle or aircraft, whether it is wheeled or tracked. If it's out there, we can get it."



A vehicle-recovery team from Company B, 526th Forward Support Battalion, prepares a tow bar for use after they arrived on site to extract the damaged vehicle.



*Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to [joe.battle1@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:joe.battle1@iraq.centcom.mil). We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.*

## DOGS

with me. Our dogs are actually more important than our weapons because we can't do our mission without them," said Broda. Each dog is awarded rank in the Army system and receives special treatment by the system and their handler.

"The dogs are always one step higher in rank than their handler in case of abuse," said Broda. "If a handler abuses the animal, he's subject to UCMJ action. If I get promoted, she gets promoted as well."

The dogs, usually Labrador retrievers or a Labrador mix, are given rigorous training and their relationship with their handlers is very important. When working, they wear a special harness and they know that when wearing it, it's time to work. "They won't work without their harnesses," said Broda. And work they do. Staff Sgt. Figo has been at the Victory complex almost two years. During that time, she has found many caches of weapons and stockpiles of munitions. She was awarded a Bronze Star and a Combat Action medal during her deployment to Iraq. Because she is so good at her job, she has become quite well known amongst the insurgent populace.

"They can clear an area one hundred times faster than Soldiers can," said Sgt. Mathew McKee, Staff Sgt. Archie's handler, "because they can

smell through the walls."

"They're very aware of what the dogs can do," said Broda. "She has put a lot of people in prison. Staff Sgt. Figo has taken sniper fire - and it was directed at her specifically. I've heard that there is a \$200,000 bounty for the man that brings back her ear."



photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tracey Ballog  
**Sgt. McKee looks on as Staff Sgt. Archie searches for munitions or explosives in the gym at Camp Victory.**

All the dogs trained for this mission have a tattoo of their 'serial number' in their ear to identify them. Somehow the insurgents learned of this and have identified which animal to target.

This has made it more dangerous for Staff Sgt. Figo to work outside the parameters of the Victory complex. These dogs are now assigned to Force Protection inside the walls of the complex, which keeps them sharp for missions in the field and safe from

sniper bullets.

"She's only got a little while left here," said Broda. "Our tour is almost up and we'll get to go home. Then we'll get some time off and she can play all she wants for a while." Playing is a special treat for dogs with such an important mission. "They have special toys they like to play with, like the tennis balls. Play is her treat for doing a good job. We don't give them food treats, that would make them lazy, but when we play ball with them, and they don't have to wear the harness, that is a treat."

"Engineer Specialized Search Dog Teams are definitely a force multiplier for all combat and combat support operations and have proven their ability and worth during multiple military operations. The dog teams are highly-trained professionals and perform every mission in a superior manner. From a command perspective, they are invaluable," said Brig. Gen.

Robin Timmons, commander, 16th Engineer Brigade.

Staff Sgt. Figo is returning home with Sgt. Broda, and Staff Sgt. Archie will pick up where she leaves off. He's been learning the ropes from her for the last three months and is ready to take over for his teacher.

For now, the dogs and the handlers share the routine, and the dangerous missions, as special teams -- keeping the forces on the Victory complex safe.

## Camp Victory 3-Day Weather Outlook

### Thursday



**Clear**

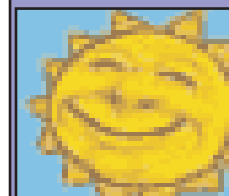
**High: 60 F  
Low: 50F**

### Friday



**Scattered  
Clouds  
High: 62F  
Low: 48F**


### Saturday



**Clear**

**High: 59F  
Low: 48F**





**Drinking Alcohol  
is a  
VIOLATION  
of  
GENERAL ORDER ONE!!**

### Operating Hours

#### Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

#### Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

#### Shopette

Open 24 Hours

#### Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

#### Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

#### Chapel (Bldg. 31)

##### Sunday:

Protestant Service 7 and 8:45 a.m.

Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.

Gospel Service Noon

Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.

Episcopal 4 p.m.

Full Life Service 6 p.m.

##### Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.

Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

#### Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

##### Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

Eastern Orthodox services:

##### Saturday:

Vespers 5 p.m.

Confession 5:30 p.m.

Bible Study 7 p.m.

##### Sunday:

Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.

#### Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

#### Golby Troop Medical Clinic

##### Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

##### Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

##### Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - noon


##### Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

##### Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon




## MNF-I/MNC-I


### Human Relations/Equal Opportunity Office

Camp Victory, Iraq

For information, guidance, regulation, policies, and training regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, and other forms of discrimination contact




HR/EO Program Manager  
MAJ Dennis Small




HR/EO SGM  
SGM Evy Lacy

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Senior HR/EO Advisor  
MSG Michael Shadel



HR/EO Advisor  
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## BEWARE!

AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF A

### LARCENY

- **LOCK IT, DON'T LOSE IT!!**
- Don't leave valuables unsecured in your room, tent, or gym.
- Don't leave valuables out in the open.
- Don't give your keys to others.
- If you become a **VICTIM** of a Larceny, report it immediately.

**REPORT CRIME 24/7**

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**MILITARY POLICE**

**DSN: 822-4790.**




photo by Sgt. Joe M. Battle

**"A lil' bit O' country..."**

**Soldiers and civilian contractors enjoy a night of dancing and country music during Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Country Night, Jan. 19. MWR Country night is held every Thursday in Building 124 on Camp Victory.**

## Victory MWR Events for January 26 - February 1

**Today:** Country Night at Bldg. 124; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Sambo/Ju-Jitsu from 9 - 10 p.m.

**Friday:** Latin Dance Night at 9 p.m. at Bldg. 51; First-run movies at Bldg. 124; At the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Fencing from 7 - 9 p.m.

**Saturday:** Football Tournament (Friday and Saturday); First-run movies at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

**Sunday:** Chess Tournament at Bldg. 124 and Bldg. 51 at 8 p.m.; Martin Luther King, Jr. 5K Run.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**Monday:** Chess Tournament at Bldg. 124; 9-Ball Tournament at Bldg. 51; At the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

**Tuesday:** Ping Pong Tournament at Bldg. 51; Dominoes Tournament at Bldg. 124 at 8 p.m.; At the Gym: Tae Kwon Do from 6 - 7 p.m. and Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Spades Tournament at Bldg. 51; Ping Pong Tournament at Bldg. 124; At the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

**MNC-I Commanding General:** Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli  
**MNC-I Public Affairs Officer:** Lt. Col. Michelle L. Martin-Hing  
**MNC-I PA Sergeant Major:** Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Stevenson

**MNC-I Command Info. Chief:** Sgt. 1st Class Laurence R. Lang  
**MNC-I Production Chief:** Sgt. Joe M. Battle  
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